

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 EURE-00 SCCT-01 /093 W

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P R 081711Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3484

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10628

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UG, UK, IS

SUBJECT: BRITISH ATTITUDE ON ISRAELI/UGANDA DISPUTE

1. HMG HAS MAINTAINED A LOW PROFILE IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE ISRAELI ACTION IN UGANDA. INITIAL COMMENT ISSUED FROM NO. 10 DOWNING STREET ON JULY 5 WAS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT "IS VERY PLEASED THAT THE HOSTAGES HAVE BEEN SAVED AND THAT THE HIJACKING ATTEMPT FAILED." SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL CALLED ON HMG TO CONGRATULATE ISRAEL ON UGANDA ACTION. DURING A MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON JULY 6, PM CALLAGHAN HELD THE LINE, DECLINING TO CRITICIZE REPORTED STATEMENTS BY UNSYG WALDHEIM OR COMMENT ON LATTER'S ATTITUDE DURING THE HIJACKING. KEY STATEMENT BY CALLAGHAN, AFTER REITERATING STATEMENT OF JULY 5, WAS "I DO NOT THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO EMBROIL OURSELVES ANY FURTHER IN THIS MATTER." CALLAGHAN CONTINUED "AS TIME WEARS ON ON THIS ISSUE, IT WILL BE SEEN THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES THAT PERHAPS HAVE NOT BEEN FORESEEN. WE SHOULD RESERVE JUDGMENT ON THE MATTER WHILE EX-  
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PRESSING OUR FULL DELIGHT AND APPRECIATION OF THE FACT

THAT MANY HOSTAGES LIVES WERE SAVED AND THE HIJACKING ATTEMPT, AND THE ATTEMPT OF THE TERRORISTS WE DEPLORE AND CONDEMN, FAILED."

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF SAME EVENING OF JULY 6, FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY WEIR EXPRESSED IRRITATION AT ARTICLES IN BRITISH PRESS ATTRIBUTING LACK OF FURTHER COMMENT BY HMG TO BRITISH CONCERN OVER ITS POSITION IN AFRICA. WEIR SAID THERE IS SIMPLY NO NEED FOR HMG TO VOLUNTEER FURTHER COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

3. BY JULY 7, HOWEVER, THE FCO HAD LEARNED OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DORA BLOCH IN UGANDA, A UK CITIZEN AND ONE OF THE HOSTAGES RELEASED BEFORE THE ISRAELI RAID. (MRS. BLOCH, 74 YEARS OLD, WAS THEN HOSPITALIZED IN KAMPALA.) THE UGANDANS HAVE PROVIDED NO SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OF MRS. BLOCH'S WHEREABOUTS AND UK HIGH COMMISSIONER HENNESSEY, HERE ON LEAVE, HAS BEEN SENT BACK TO KAMPALA TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION. ON JULY 8 FCO RECEIVED REPORTS THAT TWO FEMALE UK CITIZENS HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED IN THE TOWN OF MASAKA AND THAT A DUTCH BUSINESSMAN HAS ALSO DISAPPEARED IN KAMPALA.

4. HEAD OF EAST AFRICA DEPARTMENT, MARTIN EWANS, PRIVATELY SPECULATED TO EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE ABDUCTIONS MAY INCLINE THE FCO TO A TOUGHER SECURITY COUNCIL POSITION THAN THAT OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE. FOREIGN OFFICE IS AWAITING HENNESSEY'S PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM KAMPALA.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, HOSTAGES, RESCUE OPERATIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, UG, UK, IS  
**To:** STATE  
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